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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President Putin of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin

Interpreter: Peter Afanasenko

Notetakers: Tom Hall, Andy Green, Stacey
Mulligan

DATE, TIME November 8, 2001, 7:44 - 7:59 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Good morning. (U)

President Putin: Good morning, Mr. President. (U)

The President: Hey, Vladimir, how are you? (U)

President Putin: Excellent. I decided to call you just to talk about the key issues we are going to talk about in Washington.

~~(S)~~

The President: Oh, good. Thank you for calling. I'm confident we're going to have a good trip. I'm looking forward to it. (U)

President Putin: It seems to be a more optimistic time than when we met in Shanghai. We had a chance to talk with your Defense Minister Rumsfeld. And if I heard him correctly, it sounds like things will be finalized with the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Igor Ivanov. Now, the main thing is not to have anything added. It seems to me that we have options on all issues we have talked about till now, including the ABM Treaty. I hope that you and I will discuss these things when we meet personally. We have information from your experts about your plans for missile defense testing. I think the existing ABM Treaty should take into account needed flexibility. In a year or two, taking that

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flexibility into account, I think we can finish. It would be good if we could say something specific at the completion of our meeting on weapons, and on our cooperation on counter-terrorism.

(S)

I see there are new people coming from you and the special services for intelligence sharing. Weapons for the Northern Alliance are decided. The timing of some of this is of some concern for the Tajiks. Also, it has been confirmed by the Northern Alliance that your latest air raids have been very successful. We are pushing the Northern Alliance to increase their cooperation in operational planning and to begin actual operations. I would be very happy to have some discussions with you when we meet. (S)

The President: Yes, Vladimir. The First Lady and I are looking forward to seeing you in Texas. I hope it's Okay if I can take you to a small high school in my hometown in Texas. I want people to see that you are a modern thinker and I want you to see Americans. (S)

President Putin: Okay. (U)

The President: Okay, good. Secondly, I have one concern. First, before I express that, I'm confident we can make progress on economic issues. I know I am making great progress on Jackson-Vanik in Congress. We will talk about offensive weapons. I am prepared to discuss numbers with you when you come. I think one important subject that I want the world to know about, is the new relationship between Russian and NATO. The one area of concern I have is our talks on strategic defenses. Regardless of whether we agree or not on the ability to test freely, I will never do anything to put you in an awkward position here in America. (S)

We have two options. On the one hand, you and I can agree that America can test freely and without any restrictions, and we will share information with you. And, in return for the freedom to test, we will agree to stay within the ABM Treaty with you for a period of time. If, on the other hand, it's impossible for you, for whatever reason, to allow us to test freely, my only option will be to withdraw from the ABM Treaty at a later date, so we can begin testing after a six-month period, and we will continue to work to see if we can't reach an agreement. But I promise you that I will not embarrass you. I will not put you in an awkward position should we not be able to reach an accord on testing. We can say in Washington and Crawford we are continuing to work to make sure that each party's concerns are represented. (S)

I hope you will think through these two options. I will tell Colin Powell to talk this through with Igor and we will continue to talk through this. I think this is a great opportunity for us. It gives us a chance to continue to test and extend the treaty. I think we can discuss this if you like when you come. Nevertheless, I think we will have a great visit. I can't wait to see you. (S)

President Putin: George, we shall see; I'll think about it. I thought I would like to repeat that I have optimism with regard to all issues, including ABM. And maybe it may seem, at first glance, that nothing is changing in our position, but there are nuances that I would like to discuss with you personally when I come to Washington. We have several options. All of them are good. I wish all the best to you and I look forward to seeing you in Washington and Texas. (S)

The President: Vladimir, when you come to Texas, make sure you bring casual clothes. It will be very informal. And also, bring walking shoes, exercise shoes, so we can go for long walks on the ranch. (U)

President Putin: Okay, thank you. (U)

The President: Thank you. Good-bye. (U)

President Putin: Good-bye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --